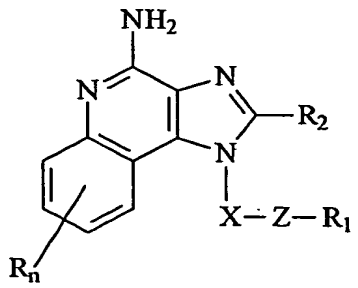
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_3-$, $-CHR_3$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_3$-alkenyl-;

Z is –S-, -SO-, or-SO_2-;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-alkyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkenyl;

$-R_4$–aryl;

$-R_4$– heteroaryl;

$-R_4$–heterocyclyl;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

- alkyl-Y- alkenyl;
-alkyl-Y-aryl; and
- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:
-OH;
-halogen;
-$N(R_3)_2$;
-$CO\text{-}N(R_3)_2$;
-$CO\text{-}C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;
-$CO\text{-}O\text{-}C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;
-N_3;
-aryl;
-heteroaryl;
-heterocyclyl;
-CO-aryl; and
-CO-heteroaryl;

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently H or $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;
each $\mathbf{R_4}$ is independently alkyl or alkenyl;
each **Y** is independently –O– or $-S(O)_{0\text{-}2}$-;
n is 0 to 4; and
each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is –S–.

3. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is $-SO_2-$.

4. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is –alkyl.

5. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is –aryl.

6. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is phenyl.

7. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is heteroaryl.

8. A compound of claim 1 wherein X is $-(CH_2)_{2-6}-$.

9. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is H.

10. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is –alkyl–O–alkyl.

11. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is –alkyl.

12. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-butyl-1-[4-(phenylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(phenylthio)ethyl]-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(phenylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(methylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[2-(phenylthio)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(phenylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(phenylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(methylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-hexyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

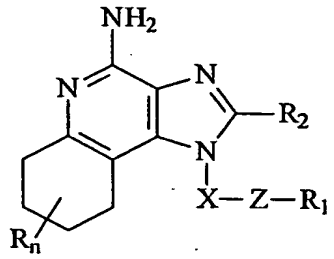
2-butyl-1-[5-(methylthio)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[5-(methylsulfinyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[3-(methylsulfonyl)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine; and

2-butyl-1-[3-(phenylsulfonyl)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A compound of the formula (II)



(II)

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_3-$, $-CHR_3$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_3$-alkenyl-;

Z is –S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-alkyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkenyl;

$-R_4$–aryl;

$-R_4$– heteroaryl; and

$-R_4$–heterocyclyl;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

- alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-$N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-CO-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently H or C_{1-10} alkyl;

each $\mathbf{R_4}$ is independently alkyl or alkenyl;

each **Y** is independently –O– or –$S(O)_{0-2}$-;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_1 is phenyl.

15. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_2 is H or alkyl.

16. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_2 is –alkyl–O–alkyl.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

21. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

22. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

23. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a theraputically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 to the animal.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α

25. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 to the animal.

26. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 to the animal.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 to the animal.

29. The method of claim 29 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

30. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 to the animal.

31. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 to the animal.